GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:44
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2001
ILLEGAL BLOOD TRADE
SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI;SUNDER LAL TIWARI

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that many private and Government blood banks are indulging in illegal blood trade in the country;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government against such blood banks;

(c) whether pre-testing of the blood of the donor is compulsory before it is taken from the donors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a)to(d): A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 44 FOR 25.7.2001

(a) The functioning of all Blood Banks in the country is regulated by the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules, 1945 with subsequent amendments. It is administered by the Central and State Drug Control Authorities according to their jurisdiction. Under these Rules, it is mandatory for all Blood Banks to have a license issued by the State Drug Control Authority with the concurrence of the Central Licensing Authority, before they start functioning. All regulatory functions concerning implementation of the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules concerning Blood Safety are performed by the State and Central Drug Control Authorities.

(b) There have been isolated incidences of illegal blood trade like operation of unlicensed blood banks and collection of blood from paid donors by private blood banks. There has been no instance of Government Blood Banks indulging in illegal blood trade.

(c) Recently two Blood Banks at Meerut involved in illegal trade of blood were ordered to stop collection of blood from 14th June, 2001 under the provisions of Drugs & Cosmetics Rules. The premises of these two blood banks were sealed and two other unlicensed blood banks in the same city are being prosecuted. The proprietors of these blood banks and other key persons who were indulging in malpractice were arrested by the police and prosecution has been launched under IPC as well as under Section 18 of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act by the U.P. Police and the Drugs Control Authorities of Meerut. Licenses of 5 blood banks in Andhra Pradesh were also withdrawn for not conforming to the norms of Drugs & Cosmetics Rules.

(d) It is mandatory under the provisions of Drugs & Cosmetics Rules to test each unit of blood, collected from voluntary donors for freedom from HIV 1 & 2 antibodies, Hepatitis B Surface Antigen, Hepatitis C Antibody, Malaria and Syphilis before issue for transfusion.